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May 21, 1982

Hon. Wynona M. Lipman 50 Park Place Suite 938 Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Wynona:

We represent the New Jersey Association for the Advancement of Psychology which is concerned about potential reductions in funding of drug abuse programs for youth. It is the considered expert opinion of professional psychologists that these early intervention programs are cost-effective vehicles to attack drug and drug-related problems. Failure to maintain these programs will result in greater cost to the state and, in the long run, contribute to the overburdening of our juvenile justice system.

The New Jersey Association for the Advancement of Psychology recognizes that some of these reductions are caused by changes in fiscal federal policy, however, we urge you to seek state-funding to replace the reduced federal aid. We believe that in doing so you will be making an investment in the children of our state that, and over the long haul, will save money for our taxpayers.

In offering this suggestion to you we concur in the concerns expressed by the Association for the Children of New Jersey in their testimony before your committee on April 1, 1982. Also, we realize that the budget deliberations are particularly difficult this year and we thank you in advance for considering the view of organized psychology on this important issue.

Sincerely yours,

THE MARCUS GROUP, INC.

Thomas V. O'Neil Vice President

TVO/tgt

cc: Linda J. Wood, Executive Director,
Association for Children of New Jersey

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